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SUBJECT: GUIDANCE: UNSC SESSION CONCERNING RUSSIAN DOWNING
OF GEORGIAN UAV

¶1. (U) This is an action message. USUN is authorized to draw from the points in para 2 below during UNSC consultations on Georgia scheduled for May 30.

¶2. Begin points:

-- UNOMIG's report on the downing of a unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) over Georgian territory offers evidence of Russia's unwillingness to respect Georgian territorial integrity and sovereignty.

-- We call on Russia to reverse its recent provocative actions with respect to Abkhazia, which undermine the UN Friends peace process. A key first step would be for Russia to reduce its heightened military posture in Abkhazia. Both sides should reduce tensions.

-- We also seek Russia's support for direct talks between Abkhaz and Georgian leaders to advance a new and promising peace initiative.

-- We reiterate our strong support for Georgia's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

-- We recognize Georgia for its continued restraint and welcome Tbilisi's effort to develop a peace plan in collaboration with Abkhaz authorities that will de-escalate military tension on both sides and pave the way for a political settlement.

-- The defacto Abkhaz authorities should be encouraged to engage directly with Georgia on its peace proposals.

IF NEEDED: RESPONSE TO COMMENTS THAT THE UNOMIG REPORT FOUND THAT UAV,S CONTRAVENE THE 1994 MOSCOW CEASEFIRE AGREEMENT:

-- The 1994 Moscow Agreement is unclear on UAV flights.

-- Russia's downing of the UAV was a clear violation of Georgian sovereignty, compromising its role as a neutral party in the conflict.

-- We call on Moscow to play a constructive role in the peace process and to actively encourage Abkhaz participation in direct talks with Georgian authorities.

End points.
RICE